

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Gwen Moore today announced Milwaukee County will receive nearly \$300,000 from the Department of Homeland Security in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), provided through a FEMA grant. The ARRA funds come in addition to FEMA's nationwide \$200 million annual FY 09 allocation announced in December.

"Recovery Act investments are real and are having a positive impact on our local economy and for families," said Congresswoman Gwen Moore. "During very difficult economic times a small amount of money just to help people find a new place to live or pay a deposit on a utility can sometimes mean the difference for a family between an affordable apartment of their own and living in a shelter."

The Recovery Act funds that Milwaukee County will receive can be used for a variety of temporary solutions to quickly assist those in need. For example, items for food pantries such as groceries, food vouchers, and transportation expenses related to the delivery of food or items for shelters such as hot meals, transportation of clients and volunteers could be provided. In addition, funds could be used to help individuals and families who have lost their homes or are on the verge of homelessness. Funds could also be used for utility assistance, temporary hotel or motel lodging, or one month's rental or mortgage assistance.

The Emergency Food and Shelter program, the oldest federal program serving all homeless populations, allocates funds to local communities to fund homeless programs and homelessness prevention services. The EFSP is governed by a National Board chaired by FEMA and made up of representatives from the United Way of America, the Salvation Army, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., Catholic Charities U.S.A., United Jewish Communities, and the American Red Cross.

"The Recovery Act investments in our community are not only creating and sustaining jobs but are helping people in our community during these difficult economic times," said Rep. Moore. "The current crisis has caused far too many people- often thru no fault of their own- to lose their homes. These funds will make an impact on the lives of many people in need who live within Milwaukee County."

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